

rhythm and blues music. The important work of the Foundation continues to this day.

The resolution we introduce today acknowledges these important contributions to American culture, recognizes Ruth Brown for her efforts to reform the royalty system, and expresses the House's deepest condolences to Ruth Brown's family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION OF FAITH ELLIS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements and commitment of Faith Ellis to the people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Faith has been a trusted employee and friend of mine for several years, and her expertise, humor and true love for north Texas and her local Fort Worth community will be sorely missed.

Faith was invaluable in her outreach role within Fort Worth. Her experiences growing up and assisting her father, Reby Cary, in the Texas State House provided her a unique training ground to understand the intersection and balance of community representation and the legislative process. It also provided her with a very early exposure to elected officials at all levels within the State that afforded her a professional comfort to associate with them in her outreach and representative capacity.

This experience, followed by her role as a loving mother, and her community efforts, make her an inspiring role model. She always brought the best out in people and gently guided us all to a better understanding of the world around us. Her compassion was evident to all, and she searched for practical solutions to any stumbling blocks that ever arose.

Combined, these life experiences allowed Faith Ellis the unique skill set needed to carry with credibility the commitment I have offered to southeast Fort Worth to actively represent their needs, and put forth the effort and leadership needed to identify and address their economic challenges at the federal level.

In a community harboring partisan wounds resulting from Texas, this was no small challenge. Faith faced the challenges with determination, professionalism, and hard work and there is no question that she will be impossible to replace. The community will likely never fully appreciate her impact, but she has clearly laid the foundation for the efforts of me and my staff. Her work, both personal and professional for her fellow man, will bring outstanding long-term benefits.

I only hope that Faith knows how much she is loved and how much she meant to all of us. The outreach model she set forth in southeast Fort Worth and indeed, throughout the 26th District, will certainly stand the test of time. Thank you Faith, for all you are and all you have done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA SMITH

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Smith for her tireless efforts as a fundraising specialist for Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Linda has been a major force at Opportunity Village in planning and developing fundraising strategies, most notably the privately-funded, multi-million dollar capital campaigns to build the Opportunity Village campuses and training centers that have served thousands of disabled people. Linda oversees the Opportunity Village Resource Development Department, which generates millions of dollars annually for programs for people with profound disabilities through special events and annual giving programs she has largely pioneered.

Her tenacity and dedication have resulted in the involvement of vocalist Celine Dion in the Opportunity Village mission, culminating a performance at a benefit concert on the Las Vegas Strip in honor of Opportunity Village's 50th birthday. Linda has also initiated capital campaigns totaling more than \$48 million including the Leid Opportunity Campus on West Oakley Blvd., the Walters Family Campus in Henderson, the Culinary Training Center on the Opportunity Village main campus and the Southwest campus at Buffalo and Patrick.

For her efforts, Linda has received numerous accolades, including: being named the "Fundraising Executive of the Year" by the National Society of Fundraising Executives, receiving the Woman of Achievement Award from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, being named an honorary member of the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, and being named "Nevada Woman of the Year" in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda Smith. Her hard work has allowed Opportunity Village to grow exponentially and enrich countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING DALE ROBBINS

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dale Robbins for his years of service as the Busti Town supervisor. Mr. Robbins served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Robbins traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Busti.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Robbins is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

MARINE PVT HEATH D. WARNER

**HON. RALPH REGULA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both sorrow and pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Marine and citizen from my district in Ohio who gave his life defending our country while serving in Iraq.

Marine PVT Heath D. Warner was killed on Wednesday, November 22, 2006, while conducting combat operations against anti-Iraqi forces in Haqlaniyah, in Al Anbar province. He was 19 years old. With his entire life before him, Heath risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway round the world.

Heath was a gunner on a Humvee when he, LCpl James Davenport, 20, of Danville, Indiana, and LCpl Joshua Alonzo, 21, of Dumas, Texas, were killed while conducting combat operations. The three were part of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and were based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

He was born on Friday, January 2, 1987, in Massillon, and was a lifetime resident of Canton. He was a 2005 graduate of McKinley High School. He had been a Boy Scout, taught break dancing at Living Fountain Dance Company, and was a member of the McKinley Young Republican Club. He enjoyed reading, martial arts, and was teaching himself Japanese and Arabic.

Even at the young age of 5, Heath dreamed of someday serving in the military. Following his high school graduation, Heath's dream of joining the Marines became a reality. His father, Scott, shared memories of Heath with the Canton Repository, recounting that his son was committed to the Marines, and had been intent on joining since childhood, even more so since September 11, 2001.

"He always had a desire to serve," he said. "I was from a family with the core values of 'God, family and country.' I instilled that in Heath. It was natural that he would join the service."

Heath was known for his deep faith, his dedication to his family, and his love of country. Today and always, Heath will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Ohioans as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

It is my honor to enter the name of Heath D. Warner in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. As I search for words to do justice in honoring Heath's sacrifice, I am reminded of the words of Jesus when He was comforting his disciples:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Heath. Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family.

To his father, Scott, his mother, Melissa, and his brothers, Chandler and Ashton, we extend our profound gratitude for sharing this outstanding Marine with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

# IN THE MINUTES OF OUR LIVES

## HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, upon learning of the tragic death of United States Marine Corps Major Trane McCloud, the following poem was penned by Albert Carey Caswell, United States Capitol Tour Guide.

"In the minutes of our lives,  
In these our short times, what of our true  
worth in the moments we're alive. . .  
In what we've all so done!  
"For it's how we've so lived and died,  
All within these our short lives, are all of  
those magnificents who've so strived!  
As did you Trane, as for America's fine son  
we now so cry!  
"For Trane, your splendid life. . . will al-  
ways be one of great meaning and sac-  
rifice!  
Yes, you America's True Son. . . of Liberty  
the one. . . shall so ever shine into  
that night!  
Yes, Trane you were such the one!  
"For a Gallant Hero who goes off to war,  
Who so leaves their most precious loved ones  
behind, all for our freedom to ensure!  
Is but The Brightest of All Sons!  
"Trane, To Make A Difference with it all. . .  
As You would not fail, as you would not fall.  
As what you so fought for, as what you  
saw!  
Until, your fine life was done!  
"In life, we all must make choices!  
But it's only from the heart, so comes un-  
common valor. . . from deep down  
these inner voices!  
To do what must be done!  
"To Heaven now rise my son!  
You are but a Hero in our Lord's eyes. . . yes  
you are the one!  
For only those brave of heart, who so play  
their part. . . souls up to Heaven shall  
so run!  
"In these the moments of our lives,  
Only in these, all of what we've so fought  
for. . . lived and died!  
Shall take us To Heaven's Sun!  
"And when there comes a gentle rain,  
Trane's tears from up in Heaven shall wash  
down upon you to ease your pain. . .  
Until, up in Heaven you so meet again. . .  
once again!"

# TRIBUTE TO MAX H. DODSON

## HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary service of Mr. Max Dodson. Mr. Dodson will be retiring from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 office in Denver, Colorado, this coming January.

For over 35 years, Mr. Dodson has been at the forefront of EPA's initiatives and programs.

His career at EPA is marked with many firsts and a tireless dedication to the Agency and its mission. Since joining EPA in August 1971, Max held numerous positions in the Denver, Colorado, and Helena, Montana, offices. These include: Director, Montana Operations Office, Helena, Montana; Director, Water Quality Management Division, Denver, Colorado; and Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation, Denver, Colorado. He holds a B.A. in Geography and two masters' degrees, one in Geography and one in Public Administration.

In addition, Max served 4 years as an intelligence officer with the U.S. Department of Navy and spent more than 20 years in the Naval Reserve where he was the Regional Commander of a District Office for several years. On top of his service to our country, Max has been a past member of the South Platte River Commission, and the Red River, Poplar River and Souris River Boards of the International Joint Commission (a binational United States-Canada organization established under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909) and the Steering Committee for the American Water Resources Association.

In the early 1970s, Max was a major contributor to EPA's very first wastewater facility plan and the first ever basin-wide water quality management plan. Both of these plans guided the development and management of wastewater treatment systems within Summit County, Colorado, and Weber County, Utah. As the first of their kind, these plans were used as models for the rest of EPA and to this day, provide a guide to development and citing of wastewater treatment facilities in these two counties. Likewise, Max worked with the State of Montana to develop the first State/EPA agreement which provided the basis for environmental work within the State and enabled EPA to award millions of dollars in grants to the State in support of that work.

While a member of the Poplar and Red River International Boards, Max was instrumental in the development of some of the earliest agreements between Canada and the United States detailing how each country would manage activities in the river basin to minimize water quality impacts that each country's activities had on the other country. Another first for EPA, which Max initiated and cultivated from the 1980s through now, was bringing together the Superfund and Clean Water Programs to address serious water quality problems in the Western United States due to historical mining activities. As a consequence of Max's leadership, EPA Region 8 was the first region in the country to list mining sites on the Superfund National Priorities List. Today, several mine cleanups have been completed and many others are underway using Superfund resources to pay for the cleanup. Through his efforts the very first "Good Samaritan" agreement was developed for an abandoned mining site located in the American Fork Canyon in Utah. This agreement is serving as a model for others and has informed the Congressional deliberations related to new "Good Sam" legislation.

Another example of Max's leadership is the development of a Response Support Corps and Regional Response Center for EPA Region 8 during the early 2000s. Due to his foresight, Region 8 was able to contribute more than its proportional share of the EPA staff who worked on the Katrina recovery efforts.

Max also served as a ranking officer during the initial response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Max was an important asset in the early days of the Katrina recovery efforts to get all of the disparate parties to work together and to ensure that the work done in the field was responsive to the needs identified.

For the last 11 years of Max's career he has been the Senior Manager overseeing the Region's Superfund, Brownfields, Emergency Response/Preparedness and National Environmental Policy Act programs, as well as several parts of the Agency's Clean Water Program. In all, his office of over 200 personnel has responsibility for implementation of six environmental statutes: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (a.k.a., Superfund); Oil Pollution Act; Brownfields Revitalization Act; National Environmental Policy Act; Clean Water Act; and Safe Drinking Water Act. Additionally, his office oversees cleanup of the Department of Defense sites under its Base Realignment and Closure, and Defense Environmental Restoration programs.

Region 8 has the distinction of being the home to some of the country's largest and most complicated Superfund sites and projects: Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Rocky Flats, Clark Fork Watershed, Clear Creek Watershed, and Libby Asbestos cleanups to name a few. The capstone of his many Superfund accomplishments was the work Max performed related to the final cleanup of Rocky Flats in 2006, enabling most of it to be converted to a wildlife refuge. Max served on the governing board that directed and oversaw the cleanup of Rocky Flats. Through his leadership and guidance, the \$6.7 billion project was completed 14 months ahead of schedule and over \$550 million under budget. Since 1980, 61 sites in the region have been listed on Superfund's National Priorities List—a list of sites representing the greatest risk to human health, welfare and the environment. By the end of 2006, 44 of the 61 sites will have been cleaned up, all but 4 under Max's tenure. Of the 44 cleaned sites, 11 have been deleted from the NPL.

Region 8 is a leader for the country in terms of the number of acres and cleanup projects restored to beneficial uses. For example, since April, 2004, over 13,000 out of a possible 17,000 acres of Rocky Mountain Arsenal have been converted from weapons and pesticides manufacturing to a National Wildlife Refuge, the largest urban refuge in the Nation. Revitalization projects which have received national recognition or awards under Max's watch have been:

1. Prairie Gateway—an over 900 acre project involving recreational and commercial uses Northeast of Denver, Colorado, including a world class soccer stadium and practice fields and a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service visitor center for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge.

2. SLC Gateway—former 650 acre railyard that was converted to mixed retail, hotel, and residential use in Salt Lake City, Utah. The redevelopment was integral part of the 2002 Winter Olympics and was selected as a Brownfields Showcase Project.

3. Murray Lead Smelter—142 acre former lead smelter that was converted to a public transit station, hospital, and commercial/retail space located in Murray, Utah.

4. Colorado Bioscience Park and Health Sciences Center—the former property that